



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



News Release

Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Region's Annual Red Meat Production Declines 2 Percent in 2013

HARRISBURG, PA, April 23, 2014 --- Commercial red meat production in the Northeastern Region of the U.S. during 2013 totaled 1,381 million pounds, dressed weight basis, down 2 percent from a year ago, according to the Northeastern Regional Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service.

Commercial cattle slaughter, at 1,067,000 head, was down 34,400 head from last year. Of this number, 1,048,675 head were slaughtered in 157 federally inspected plants. Beef production, at 1,265.3 million pounds live weight, was down 3.1 percent from 2012. Average live weight per head was 1,186 pounds, unchanged from last year. Commercial calf slaughter, at 304,200 head, was up 2,600 head from a year ago. Veal production, at 92.5 million pounds live weight, was up 1 percent from a year ago. Average live weight was unchanged at 304 pounds per head. Commercial hog slaughter, at 2,998,100 head, was down 87,600 head from last year. Of this number, 2,978,536 head were slaughtered in 144 federally inspected plants. Pork production was 775.7 million pounds live weight, down 0.8 percent from 2012. Average live weight increased 5 pounds per head to 259 pounds. Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter, at 328,900 head, up 42,600 head from last year. Of this number, 317,120 head were slaughtered in 139 federally inspected plants. Lamb and mutton production was 29.4 million pounds live weight, up 12.6 percent from a year ago. The average live weight decreased 2 pounds to 89 pounds per head. Federally inspected goat slaughter, at 265,828 head slaughtered for the year of 2013 at 90 plants across the Region. There were an estimated 342 commercial slaughter plants in the Northeastern Region on January 1, 2014, up from 340 a year ago. Of these, 187 plants were under federal inspection.

Nationally, red meat production in commercial plants and on farms totaled 49.3 billion pounds in 2013, slightly lower than the previous year. Beef production, at 25.8 billion pounds, was down 1 percent from the previous year. Veal production totaled 118 million pounds, down 6 percent from last year. Pork production, at 23.2 billion pounds, was slightly below the previous year. Lamb and mutton production totaled 161 million pounds, up slightly from 2012. There were 831 plants slaughtering under federal inspection in the U.S. on January 1, 2014, compared with 826 last year. Of these, 638 slaughtered at least one head of cattle during 2013 with the 13 largest plants slaughtering 55 percent of the total cattle killed. Hogs were slaughtered at 606 plants, with the 12 largest plants accounting for 57 percent of the total. Likewise, 5 of the 209 plants that slaughtered calves accounted for 62 percent of the total, and 3 of the 516 plants that slaughtered sheep or lambs in 2013 comprised 57 percent of the total head. Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, and Texas accounted for 49 percent of the U.S. commercial red meat production in 2013, similar to 2012.

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